

CLAIMS

1. A method of treating a closure made of expanded plastic material including heat shrinking the closure to effect a tapered end.
- 5 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the heat shrinking includes a heating member adapted to contact an end of the closure.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the heating member is further adapted to
10 contact both ends of the closure.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the heating member includes two heating elements adapted to contact opposing ends of the closure.
- 15 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the heating elements are of an elongated form.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the elongated heating element has at least one heat shrinking contactable edge so as to effect the tapered end to the
20 closure.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the heat shrinking contactable edge of each elongated heating element are symmetrically spaced with respect to the other elongated heating element, so as to be adapted to rollable contact the
25 respective ends of the closure along the heat shrinking contactable edge to thereby effect a radial tapering of the said closure ends as said closure rolls along said contactable edges.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the elongated heating elements are aligned
30 such that each respective heat shrinking contactable edge contacts only the corresponding end of the closure.
9. The method of claim 8 further including spacing adjustment means for varying the symmetrical spacing between elongated heating elements so as to
35 accommodate closures of differing dimensions.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the adjustment means includes a series of supporting blocks for each elongated heating element, whereby the elongated heating element is adapted to rest on a predetermined number of blocks so as to define a predetermined spacing with the other elongated heating element to provide for the heat shrinking of the respective ends of a closure of a predetermined dimension.

11. The method of any one of claims 7 to 10 further including inclination adjustment means to vary an inclination of each elongated heating element so as to enable the heat shrinking contactable edges of said elongated heating elements to contact the respective ends of the closure at a predetermined aligned angle to effect a predetermined degree of tapering to said ends.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the inclination adjustment means includes a stair case structure for each elongated heating element, such that each elongated heating element rests on a predetermined step of the stair case, so as to incline the respective heat contactable edge of the elongated element to provide a predetermined degree of tapering to the ends of the closure when being heat shrunk.

14. The method of claim 3 wherein the heating member includes opposed heat shrinking arms, each arm having a heat shrinking contact surface area adapted to engage a peripheral rim at the respective ends of the closure so as to shrink said rims to provide for a tapering or chamfering of each respective end.

15. A closure made of expanded plastic material treated by a method of any one of the preceding claims.

16. A method of treating a closure made of expanded plastic material as described in the specification with reference to and as illustrated by any one or more of the accompanying drawings.

17. A closure made of expanded plastic material treated according to the method of claim 16.